English 108H
Alienation and Isolation in Literature
Fall 1997, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:00-5:30

Instructor: Sandra Sabatini
Office: FAS 2216 ext. 3841
Office Hours: Thursdays, 2:00-4:00 or by appointment
Mailbox: HH 229

Required Texts:
Joseph Conrad -- Heart of Darkness
Kate Chopin -- The Awakening and Other Stories
Timothy Findley -- The Wars
Virginia Woolf -- Mrs. Dalloway
W. Shakespeare -- Othello
Alistair MacLeod -- As Birds Bring Forth The Sun and Other Stories
Elizabeth Smart -- By Grand Central Station I Sat Down and Wept
Chinua Achebe -- Things Fall Apart
Margaret Atwood -- The Edible Woman

Course Description:

Our purpose in this course will be to explore the way that a sense of isolation and alienation pervades literature from a variety of cultural perspectives and time periods. We'll examine various kinds of alienation, do a bit of philosophy, but mostly we'll be concerned with the literature itself and the way that words evoke meaning and develop community even when the subject is isolation. The course will consist of a combination of lecture, presentation, and class discussion. Students are required to read critically and carefully and to come to class prepared for discussion.

Evaluation:

5 -- 250 word discussion papers 20%
Class Seminar presentation and short paper 20%
Major Essay (1,000-1250 words due October 14) 30%
Final Examination 30%

Late Assignments:

Late assignments will lose two marks per day including weekends. If you hand your assignment in late you must take it to the English department secretary to be date-stamped during regular business hours (9:30-4:30) before putting it in my mailbox. Do not slip assignments under my office door.

Internet References:

Please note that if you cite sources from the internet, you must also hand in a downloaded hard copy of the source with your assignment.

Policy on Academic Misconduct:

The University of Waterloo has strict rules about plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct. Plagiarism is "the act of presenting ideas, words, or other intellectual property of another as one's own." Remember to footnote or otherwise cite your sources.